

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W  
----- 056797

R 120706Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2200

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0171

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MY

SUBJ: ZAITON TO RETIRE AS MFA SECTEN, OTHER CHANGES  
ANNOUNCED

1. NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY BERNAMA AND PRESS HAVE REPORTED  
VACANCY IN U.S. AND U.N. POSITIONS CAUSED BY RETURN TO  
MALAYSIA OF FORMER AMBASSADOR KHIR JOHARI (WHO ARRIVED HERE  
JAN 10) WILL COINCIDE WITH EXPECTED RESHUFFLE OF KEY MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADORIAL POSTS IN EARLY 1976.  
MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN CHANGES IS ANNOUNCEMENT LONG-TIME  
MFA SECGEN TAN SRI ZAITON IBRAHIM WILL RETURE SOMETIME AFTER  
THE ASEAN SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR INDONESIA IN LATE FEBRUARY.  
REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT AMB TO INDONESIA DATUK ZAINAL ABIDIN  
SULONG'S TERM IN JAKARTA IS UP AND THAT HE IS EXPECTED TO  
TRANSFER IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. IN ADDITION, BERNAMA  
NOTES THAT UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SOUTHEAST ASEAN AFFAIRS  
YUSOF HITAM WILL BECOME MALAYSIA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR  
TO HANOI BUT THAT HIS DEPARTURE HAS BEEN DELAYED BY  
"ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS" IN HANOI. FORMER PRINCIPAL ASST  
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SECRETARY FOR INDOCHINA AFFAIRS HASMY AGAM, WHO WILL BE

DCM, IS EXPECTED TO "LEAVE SHORTLY" TO SET UP THE EMBASSY.

2. COMMENT: MFA SOURCES INDICATE THAT ZAITON MAY BE NAMED TO WASHINGTON POST BUT THAT "POLITICAL FACTORS" MIGHT INTERVENE. ZAINAL ABIDIN HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED ZAITON BUT THESE SAME SOURCES SEEM TO BE IN SOME DOUBT WHETHER HE ACTUALLY WILL DO SO. IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ZAITON IS ALREADY PHASING OUT AND THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA BIN HAJI MOHAMED ALI IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY AND MAY BE ACTING SEC GEN FOR SOME TIME. THE YUSOFF HITAM ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME BUT FAILURE OF THE DRV TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LIVING AND OFFICE SPACE HAS PREVENTED DEPARTURE OF THE SMALL EMBASSY STAFF (THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING FIVE OR SIX MEMBERS).  
UNDERHILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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